

Five new species of Polycentropodidae (Trichoptera) from Ecuador and Venezuela

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ABSTRACT

Diagnoses, descriptions and illustrations of male genitalia are given for four new species of the *Polycentropus gertschi* group, *Polycentropus cressae* n. sp., *Polycentropus neblinensis* n. sp., *Polycentropus quadricuspis* n. sp., and *Polycentropus silex* n. sp. The former two are from Venezuela and the latter two from Ecuador. In addition, a diagnosis, description and set of male genitalia illustrations are provided for *Polyplectropus beccus*, a new species from Ecuador. The generic placement of this species, while currently appropriate, may require reclassification pending completion of ongoing studies on Neotropical polycentropodids.

Key words: Trichoptera, Polycentropodidae, *Polycentropus*, *Polyplectropus*, caddisfly, new species, Neotropics, Ecuador, Venezuela

INTRODUCTION

The cosmopolitan caddisfly family Polycentropodidae comprises approximately 600 recognized species (ITIS 2002, Morse 2001). As currently defined, the genera *Polycentropus sensu stricto* and *Polyplectropus* are global in distribution and include 158 and 145 species, respectively (ITIS 2002). Flint et al. (1999) recorded 64 species of *Polycentropus sensu lato* (they did not separate *Polycentropus sensu stricto* from possible *Plectrocnemia*) and 42 species of *Polyplectropus* from the Neotropics. Recent investigations have added 6 *Polycentropus* and 10 *Polyplectropus* to the known Neotropical fauna (Chamorro-Lacayo 2003, Holzenthal & Almeida 2003, Chamorro-Lacayo & Holzenthal 2004, Flint & Sykora 2004). Ongoing investigation in Central and South America will more than double the known Neotropical *Polyplectropus* (Chamorro-Lacayo & Holzenthal 2004) and add more than 2 dozen *Polycentropus* (Holzenthal & Almeida 2003).

Four of the following new polycentropodids are *Polycentropus* of the *gertschi* species-group. In his study of the Neotropical *Polycentropus* s. s., Hamilton (1986) identified 3 synapomorphies that support monophyly of the *gertschi* group: (1) the ventral process of the phallobase is apicoventral in position, (2) each intermediate appendage is free to its base and articulates basomesally on its preanal appendage, and (3) there is a sclerite formed in the membrane below and around the phallus that appears to support and guide this organ. Two of the new species described here, *Polycentropus cressae* n. sp. and *Polycentropus neblinensis* n. sp., both from Venezuela, are placed in the *picana* complex of the *gertschi* group. The *picana* complex is identified by 2 synapomorphies: (1) short tubular portion of the phallobase and (2) 2 groups of spines in the phallic membranes (Hamilton 1986). Species of the *picana* complex include *Polycentropus aztecus* Flint, *Polycentropus bellus* Flint, *Polycentropus gertschi* Denning, *Polycentropus lingulatus* Flint, *Polycentropus picana* Ross, *Polycentropus veracruzensis* Flint, and *Polycentropus zancus* Flint.

From Ecuador, *Polycentropus quadricuspidis* n. sp. is placed in the *joergenseni* complex based on the occurrence of a dorsal sclerotized band in the phallic membrane (Hamilton 1986). This species complex includes *Polycentropus connatus* Flint, *Polycentropus exsertus* Flint, *Polycentropus hamiferus* Flint, *Polycentropus joergenseni* Ulmer, *Polycentropus longispinosus* Schmid, *Polycentropus meridiensis* Flint, *Polycentropus uribici* Holzenthal & Almeida and nearly 2 dozen undescribed species from southeastern Brazil. Based on illustrations, it appears that *Polycentropus sarandi* Angrisano is a member of this complex and related to the species from southeastern Brazil.

Polycentropus silex n. sp., also from Ecuador, is placed in the *bartolus* complex based on the presence of a single, large spine in the phallic membrane (Hamilton 1986). Other members of the *bartolus* complex are *Polycentropus alatus* Flint, *Polycentropus azulus* Flint, *Polycentropus bartolus* Denning, *Polycentropus ceciliae* Flint, *Polycentropus dentoides* Yamamoto, *Polycentropus encera* Denning & Sykora, *Polycentropus fasthi* Holzenthal & Hamilton, *Polycentropus fortuneus* Flint, *Polycentropus holzenthali* Bueno & Hamilton, *Polycentropus mayanus* Flint, and *Polycentropus unispina* Flint. *Polycentropus nebulosus* Holzenthal & Hamilton was also placed in this complex by these authors (1988) in spite of having 3 large phallic spines rather than the single spine.

A 5th polycentropodid described here is tentatively placed in the genus *Polyplectropus* based on wing venational characters including the strongly recurved apical portion of Cu2 that is only tenuously connected to the posterior margin of the forewing and the absence of fork I in the hind wing. Nonetheless, the male genitalia are not typical of known Neotropical *Polyplectropus* (Chamorro-Lacayo, personal communication). Resolution of generic classification of this new species is left to Maria Lourdes Chamorro-Lacayo, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, who is currently investigating the genus *Polyplectropus* and its placement in the Polycentropodidae.

Procedures for preparation and illustration of male genitalia and wings and for construction of species description follow those described by Holzenthal & Andersen (2004).

Types are deposited in the collections of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (NMNH) and the University of Minnesota Insect Collection, St. Paul, Minnesota (UMSP) as indicated in the species descriptions.

SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

Polycentropus cressae Hamilton and Holzenthal, new species

Fig. 1

Polycentropus cressae n. sp. is similar to *P. aztecus*, *P. gertschi* and *P. neblinensis* n. sp. in the possession of a single pair of anterior spines in the phallic membranes below the phallic sclerite (Fig. 1E & F) in addition to another more mesal group of spines. In *P. cressae* and *P. neblinensis*, the anterior (basal) pair of spines is large and reminiscent of bull's horns. In *P. cressae*, the spines in the mesal group (Fig. 1E & F) are less numerous (35–40) and larger than those in *P. neblinensis* (>50). *Polycentropus aztecus* and *P. gertschi* have a single pair of spines in the anterior group that are notably smaller and more similar to those in the mesal group and those in the mesal group are 4 and 6 in number, respectively.

Polycentropus cressae is unique in the number of heavier mesal spines in the phallic membranes (ca. 35–40; Fig. 1E & F), the lateral flanges on the posterior margins of the phallobase (Fig. 1E), the narrow ventromesal process of the phallobase with a shallow apical emargination (Fig. 1E & F), the narrow lateral face of the inferior appendage (Fig. 1A), and the simple triangular shape of the preanal appendage in lateral view (Fig. 1A).

Adult. Length of forewing: male 6.5–7.0 mm (n=3), female 7.5–8.2 mm (n=2). Body pale brown to yellow, legs stramineous, dorsum of head and thorax brown, clothed with long, dark setae; general vestiture of forewing with fine, brown to dark brown setae, with many scattered areas of golden setae, base of forewing with long, erect setae.

Male. Genitalia as in Fig. 1. Sternum IX in lateral view subtriangular, in ventral view quadrate; anterior margin shallowly concave, posterior margin slightly produced medially. Tergum IX and X membranous. Intermediate appendage straight, slightly angled basally, short, exceeding preanal appendage by less than 1/4th its length; basal region simple, not expanded; apex digitate, with apical setae. Preanal appendage short, densely setose, triangular, broad basally; mesoventral process absent. Inferior appendage densely setose, short, subtriangular, wide dorsoventrally, subequal to length; dorsolateral flange narrowly rounded; ventrally with dorsally-directed caudomesal point, exposed in lateral view; in ventral view, inferior appendage subtriangular, caudomesal point prominent, acute; in caudal view, inferior appendage subtriangular, caudomesal point broadly triangular. Phallobase very short, apicolateral corner produced into short flange; apicoventral projection long, narrow, with pair of points; phallic membranes with anterior and mesal groups of spines (although probably reversed in evaginated phallus), anterior group consisting of

long, paired, curved spines, mesal group of many (35–40) small spines; phallic sclerite oval (difficult to discern, especially apically). Subphallic sclerite U-shaped in caudal view.

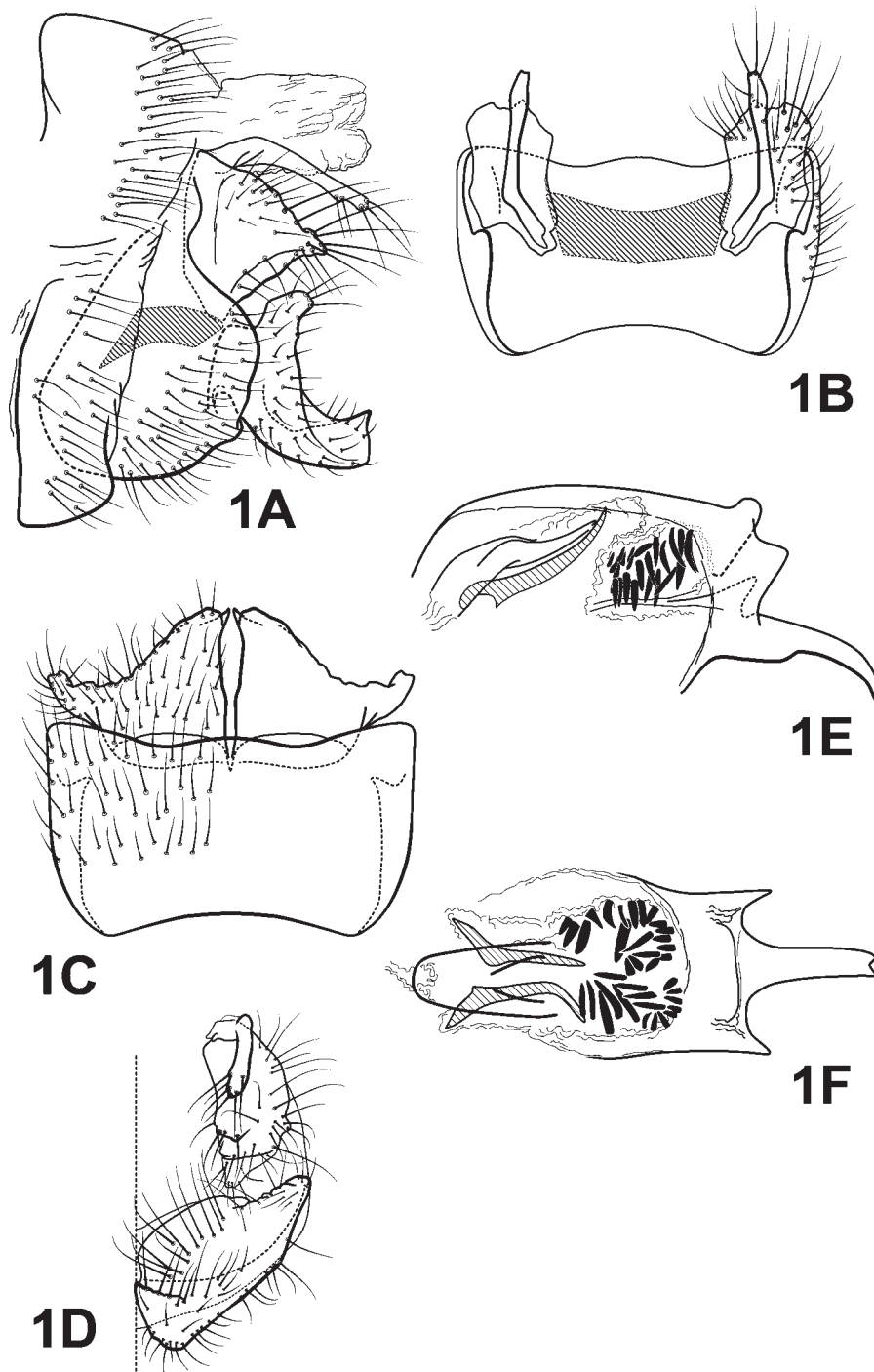


FIGURE 1. *Polycentropus cressae*, new species. Male genitalia: A—lateral; B—dorsal; C—ventral; D—caudal; E—phallus, lateral; F—phallus, dorsal.

Holotype male. VENEZUELA: Falcón: P[arque]. N[acional]. Sierra de San Luis, Río Negro, 11°11.750'N, 69°41.454'W, el. 1371 m, 8–9.vi.2001, Holzenthal, Blahnik, Paprocki, Cressa (UMSP000074848) (UMSP)

Paratypes: Same data as holotype—1 male, 1 female (UMSP), 1 male, 1 female (NMNH).

Etymology. We take great pleasure in naming this species in honor of Dr. Claudia Cressa, Universidad Central de Venezuela, in recognition of her contributions to the study of Venezuelan aquatic insects and her generous support of our work in Venezuela.

***Polycentropus neblinensis* Hamilton and Holzenthal, new species**

Fig. 2

Polycentropus new species 11, Hamilton 1986: 130–131, 231, fig. 6.37.

Similar to *Polycentropus cressa*, n. sp., *P. aztecus* and *P. gertschi* in the possession of a single pair of anterior spines in the phallic membranes, *P. neblinensis* n. sp. differs from all 3 in the large number and small size of the mesal group of spines in the phallic membrane (Fig. 2E). It is similar to *P. cressa* and further distinguished from *P. aztecus* and *P. gertschi* in the large, bull's-horn appearance of the anterior pair of phallic spines (Fig. 2E). The prominent emargination of the shorter apicoventral process of the phallobase (Fig. 2G) is unique. In addition, the shape of the inferior appendage in lateral (Fig. 2A) and ventral views (Fig. 2C) and the lateral view of the preanal appendage (Fig. 2A) distinguishes *P. neblinensis* from these and the other species of the *picana* species complex.

Adult. Length of forewing: male 7.0–9.0 mm (n=9), female 9.5–11.0 mm (n=3). Body pale brown to yellow, legs stramineous, dorsum of head and thorax brown, clothed with long, dark setae; general vestiture of forewing with fine, brown to dark brown setae, with many small, scattered areas of golden setae, base of forewing with long, erect setae.

Male. Genitalia as in Fig. 2. Sternum IX in lateral view subtriangular, in ventral view quadrate; anterior margin shallowly concave, posterior margin slightly concave. Tergum IX and X membranous. Intermediate appendage slightly curved mesad, short, exceeding preanal appendage by less than 1/4th its length; basal region simple, not expanded; apex digitate, with apical setae. Preanal appendage short, densely setose, triangular, broad basally; mesoventral process broadly triangular, directed ventrally, apex bluntly triangular. Inferior appendage densely setose, short, oval, dorsoventral height greater than length; dorsolateral flange broadly rounded; ventrally with dorsally-directed caudomesal point, exposed in lateral view; in ventral view, inferior appendage subquadrate, caudomesal point prominent, rounded; in caudal view, inferior appendage quadrate, caudomesal point triangular. Phallobase moderately short; apicoventral projection long, broad, with pair of points; phallic membranes with anterior and mesal groups of spines (although probably reversed in evaginated phallus), anterior group consisting of long, paired, sigmoid spines,

mesal group of many (>50) very small spines; phallic sclerite oval (difficult to discern, especially apically). Subphallic sclerite U-shaped in caudal view.

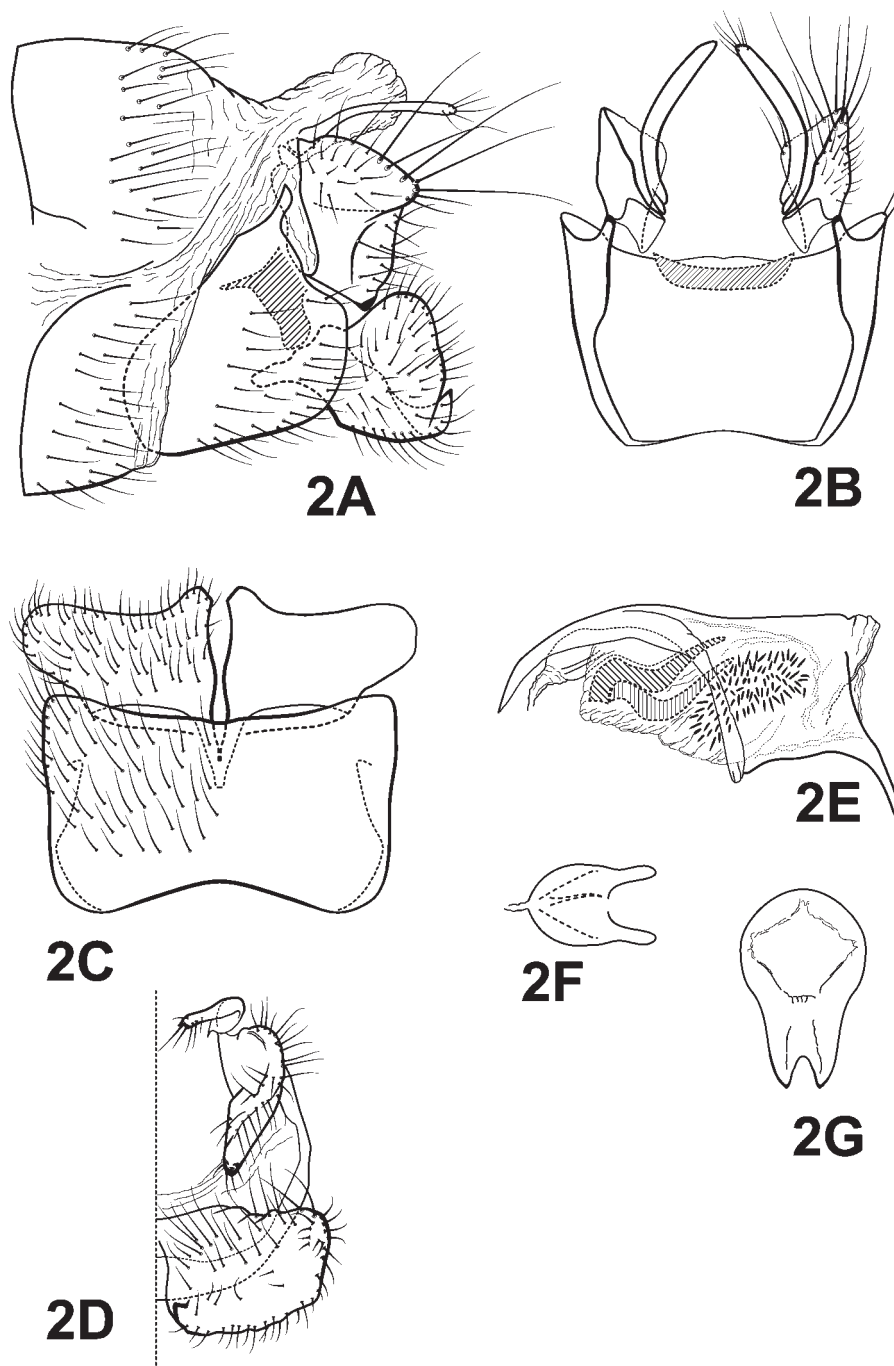


FIGURE 2. *Polycentropus neblinensis*, new species. Male genitalia: A—lateral; B—dorsal; C—ventral; D—caudal; E—phallus, lateral; F—phallic sclerite, dorsal; G—phallobase, caudal.

Holotype male: VENEZUELA: Amazonas: Cerro de la Neblina, Camp II, 00°49'N, 65°59'W, el. 2100 m, 16–18.iii.1984, J.A. Louton (NMNH).

Paratypes: Same data as holotype, except 00°50'N, 29.i.1985, at blacklight at edge of open bog and *Bonnetia* scrub, W.E. Steiner—2 males (NMNH); same as holotype, except Camp III, 00°56'10"N, 66°03'53"W, el. 1820 m, 15–17.ii.1984, D. Davis—2 males, 1 female (UMSP); same as holotype, except Camp VII, 00°51'N, 65°58'W, el. 1850 m, 30.i–10.ii.1985, P.J. and P.M. Spangler, R.A. Faitoute, at blacklight—2 males NMNH); same as last, except 2–4.xii.1984, R.L. Brown—1 female; same as holotype, except Camp X, 00°54'N, 60°02'W, el. 1690m, 13.ii.1985, W.E. Steiner, at blacklight, mixed scrub forest near stream and canyon rim—2 males (NMNH); same as last, except 12.ii.1985—1 female (NMNH).

Etymology. The species epithet is derived from Cerro de la Neblina, the tepui from where this species was collected.

***Polycentropus quadricuspidis* Hamilton and Holzenthal, new species**

Fig. 3

From Ecuador, *P. quadricuspidis* n. sp. is placed in the *joergenseni* complex and is most closely related to *P. joergenseni* and *P. longispinosus*. These 3 species share 4 synapomorphies not found in other species of the *joergenseni* complex: (1) a ventral sclerotized band in the phallic membranes (Fig. 3E), (2) a pair of ventral sclerotized bumps in the phallic membrane apical to the ventral band (Fig. 3E), (3) an apicoventral process on the phallobase that is reduced to a pair of ventral points (Fig. 3E & G), and (4) somewhat broadened and flattened inferior appendages (Fig. 3A). The inferior appendage of *P. quadricuspidis* (Fig. 3A & C) is shorter than that of *P. longispinosus* and resembles that of *P. joergenseni*. The intermediate appendage (Fig. 3A & B) is intermediate between that of *P. longispinosus* and *P. joergenseni* in both length and thickness. *Polycentropus quadricuspidis* is most easily distinguished from these sister species by the 2 pairs of apicoventral points on the phallobase (Fig. 3G), the more prominent, spicule-covered pair of ventral bumps in the phallic membranes (Fig. 3E), and the slight dorsal concavity of the lateral face of the inferior appendages (Fig. 3A).

Adult. Length of forewing: male 9.0 mm (n=2), female 8.0 mm (n=1). Body stramineous, legs stramineous, dorsum of head and thorax brown, clothed with long, dark setae; general vestiture of forewing with fine, brown to dark brown setae, with many small, scattered areas of golden setae, base of forewing with long, erect setae.

Male. Genitalia as in Fig. 3. Sternum IX in lateral view subquadrate, posterolateral corner slightly produced, in ventral view slightly trapezoidal; anterior margin concave, posterior margin slightly concave. Tergum IX and X membranous. Intermediate appendage sinuate, apex curved medially, long, exceeding preanal appendage by more than 1/2 its length; basal region simple, not expanded; apex acuminate, without apical setae. Preanal

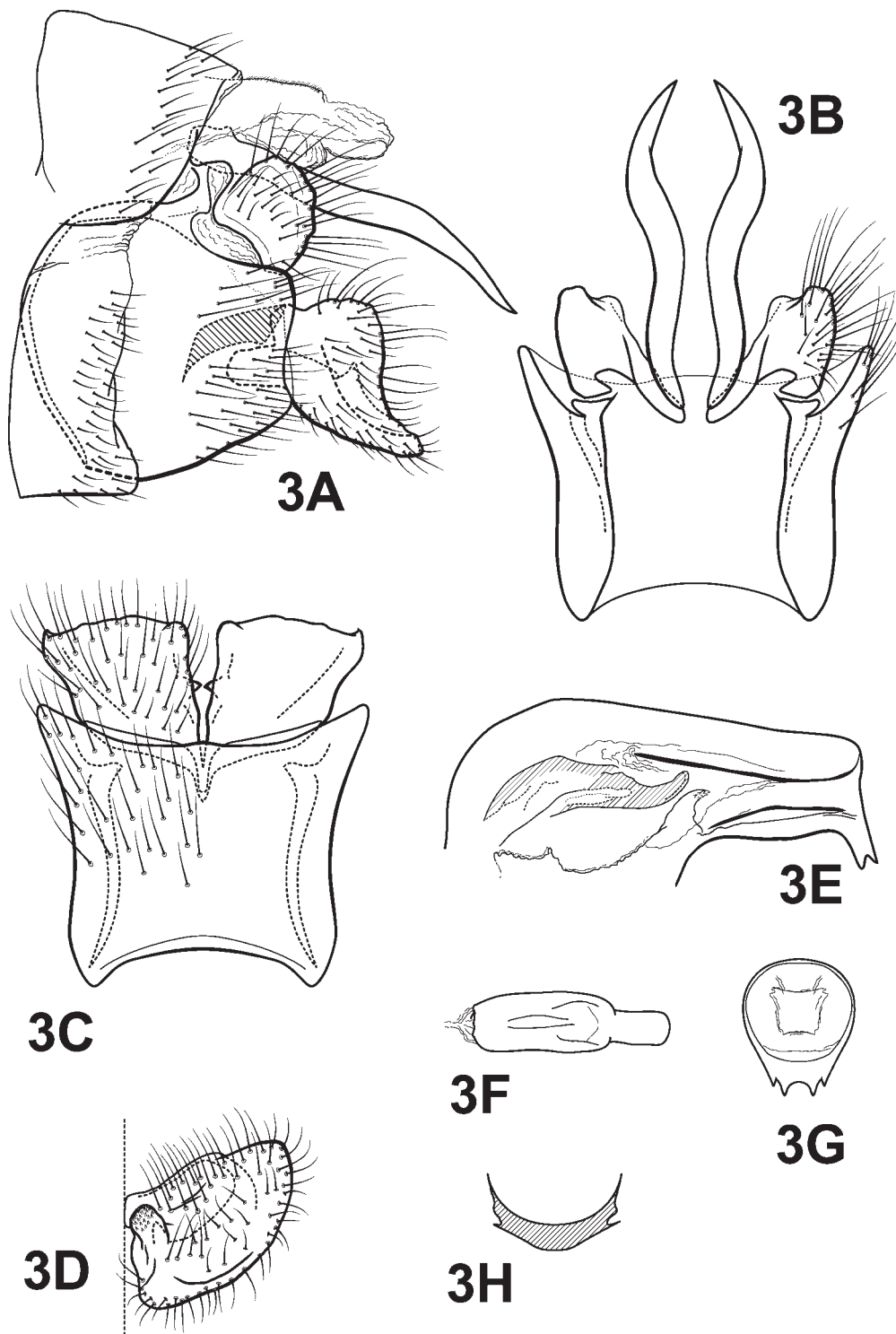


FIGURE 3. *Polycentropus quadricuspis*, new species. Male genitalia: A—lateral; B—dorsal; C—ventral; D—inferior appendage, caudal; E—phallus, lateral; F—phallic sclerite, dorsal; G—phallobase, caudal; H—subphallic sclerite, caudal.

appendage short, densely setose, rounded, broad basally; mesoventral process absent. Inferior appendage densely setose, short, subtriangular, wide dorsoventrally, subequal to length; dorsolateral flange broadly rounded; ventrally with dorsally-directed medial point, hidden in lateral view; in ventral view, inferior appendage quadrate; medial point prominent, acute; in caudal view, inferior appendage broadly oval, medial point rounded. Phallobase moderately elongate; apicoventral projection short, broad, with two pairs of points; phallic membranes without spines, but with ventromesal pair of conical, spiculate lobes and dorsal and ventral sclerotized bands; phallic sclerite elongate, apex upturned, spatulate. Subphallic sclerite U-shaped in caudal view.

Holotype male: ECUADOR: Zamora-Chinche: 30 km E Loja, el. 2000 m, 23 Sept. 1990, O.S. Flint, Jr. (NMNH).

Paratypes: Same data as holotype—1 male, 1 female (NMNH).

Etymology. From the Latin words *quattuor*, four, and *cuspis*, point, for the four points on the apicoventral area of the phallobase.

***Polycentropus silex* Hamilton and Holzenthal, new species**

Fig. 4

This new Ecuadorian species is placed in the *bartolus* group based on the occurrence of a single large spine in the phallic membrane (Fig. 4E). The new species is very similar to *P. ceciliae* and *P. fasthi* in the shape of the inferior appendage (Fig. 4A, C & D) and phallus (Fig. 4E & F), but the presence of a nearly asetose, “thumb-like” lobe ventral to the setose body of the preanal appendage (Fig. 4A) distinguishes the new species from *P. ceciliae* and *P. fasthi* and from all other *bartolus* group species.

Adult. Length of forewing: male 6.0 mm (n=1, possibly teneral). Body stramineous, legs stramineous, dorsum of head and thorax pale brown, clothed with long stramineous setae; general vestiture of forewing with fine, light brown to brown setae, with many small, scattered areas of golden setae, base of forewing with long, erect setae.

Male. Genitalia as in Fig. 4. Sternum IX in lateral view subtriangular, dorsolaterally with distinct triangular patch of minute spicules, in ventral view quadrate; anterior margin shallowly concave, posterior margin slightly concave. Tergum IX and X membranous, slightly sclerotized basally. Intermediate appendage slightly curved, upturned, short, exceeding preanal appendage by 1/2 its length; basal region complex, slightly expanded; apex acuminate, with preapical setae, in membranous sheathes. Preanal appendage short, bilobed, with setose thumb-like dorsal lobe and more digitate, asetose ventral lobe, broad basally; mesoventral process narrowly triangular, directed ventrad, apex hook-like. Inferior appendage densely setose, short, oval, dorsoventral height greater than length; dorsolateral flange broadly rounded; ventrally with dorsally-directed caudomesal point, exposed in lateral view; in ventral view, inferior appendage subtriangular, caudomesal point promi-

ment, acute; in caudal view, inferior appendage suboval, caudomesal point broadly triangular, with more basal patch of heavy, erect setae. Phallobase very short; apicoventral pro-

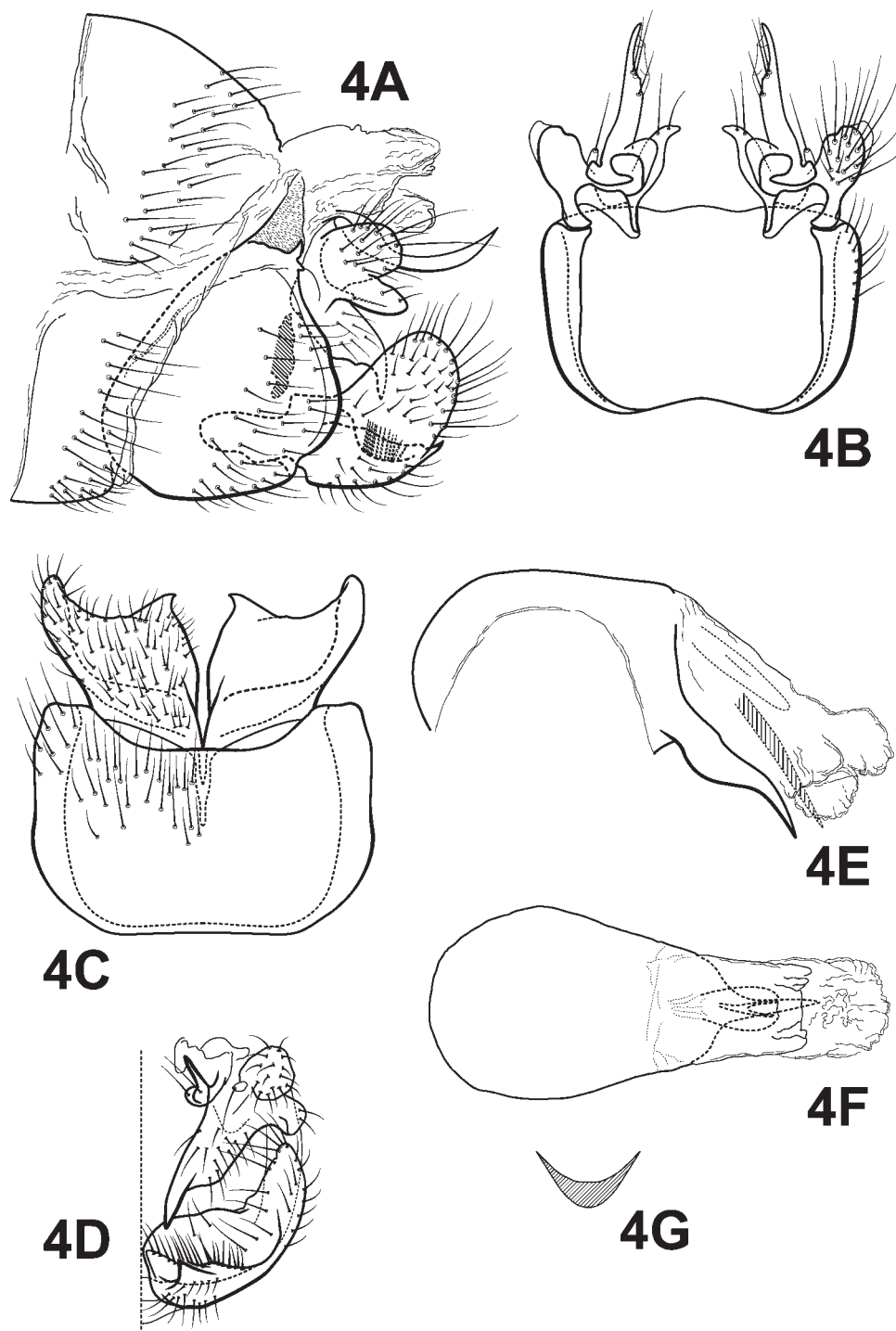


FIGURE 4. *Polycentropus silex*, new species. Male genitalia: A—lateral; B—dorsal; C—ventral; D—caudal; E—phallus, lateral; F—phallus, dorsal; G—subphallic sclerite, caudal.

jection long, narrow, with single point; phallic membranes with single, long spine; phallic sclerite oval (difficult to discern, especially apically). Subphallic sclerite U-shaped in caudal view.

Holotype male: ECUADOR: Pichincha: ca. 84 km SW Quito, Chiriboga Rd., el. 1400 m, 7 Sept. 1990, O.S. Flint, Jr. (NMNH).

Etymology. *Silex* is Latin for flint, a pure form of microcrystalline quartz (silicate) commonly found in limestone rock. We name this species “silex” to honor Dr. Oliver S. Flint, Jr. of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, for his many contributions to world trichopterozoology.

***Polyplectropus beccus* Hamilton and Holzenthal, new species**

Fig. 5, 6

While wing venation indicates affinities to the New World *Polyplectropus* (Fig. 5), the male genitalia resemble no known New or Old World species of this genus (Fig. 6). The shape of the preanal appendage (Fig. 6A, B & D) is unique among *Polyplectropus*, and to our knowledge all known polycentropodids. The 4, heavy and truncate setae on the dorsal lobe and the bifurcate posterior process of the preanal appendage (Fig. 6A & B) are diagnostic. The phallus has a pair of large, symmetrical spines in the phallic membranes (Fig. 6E), an elongate phallic sclerite (Fig. 6E & F), and a bluntly forked process in the apicodorsal phallic membranes (Fig. 6G). The inferior appendages (Fig. 6A, C & D) resemble New World *Polycentropus* in the medial connection more than they resemble those of *Polyplectropus*, which are often broadly joined.

Adult. Length of forewing: male 5.5–6.5 mm (n=3). Body pale brown to yellow, legs stramineous, dorsum of head and thorax brown, clothed with long, dark setae; general vestiture of forewing with fine brown to dark brown setae, with many small patches of golden setae, base of forewing with long, erect setae.

Male. Genitalia as in Fig. 6. Posteromesal region of tergum VIII produced posteriad, shelf-like, with apical patch of microsetae. Sternum IX in lateral view subquadrate, in ventral view quadrate; anterior margin emarginate, posterior margin slightly produced medially. Tergum IX and X membranous, very reduced. Intermediate appendage absent. Preanal appendage very short, densely setose, with patch of stout, blunt setae apically, rounded, broad basally; mesoventral process triangular, directed ventrad, apex bifurcate, beak-like, with sclerotized dorsal branch and more slender, less sclerotized, closely appressed ventral branch. Inferior appendage densely setose, elongate, dorsoventral height less than length; dorsolateral flange an elongate lobe; ventrally with short, lobate projection. Phallobase moderately elongate; apicoventral projection absent; phallic membranes with single pair of long, curved spines; phallic sclerite oval, moderately elongate, apicolateral corners acute. Subphallic sclerite absent, but subphallic semisclerotized band connecting bases of preanal appendages beneath phallus.

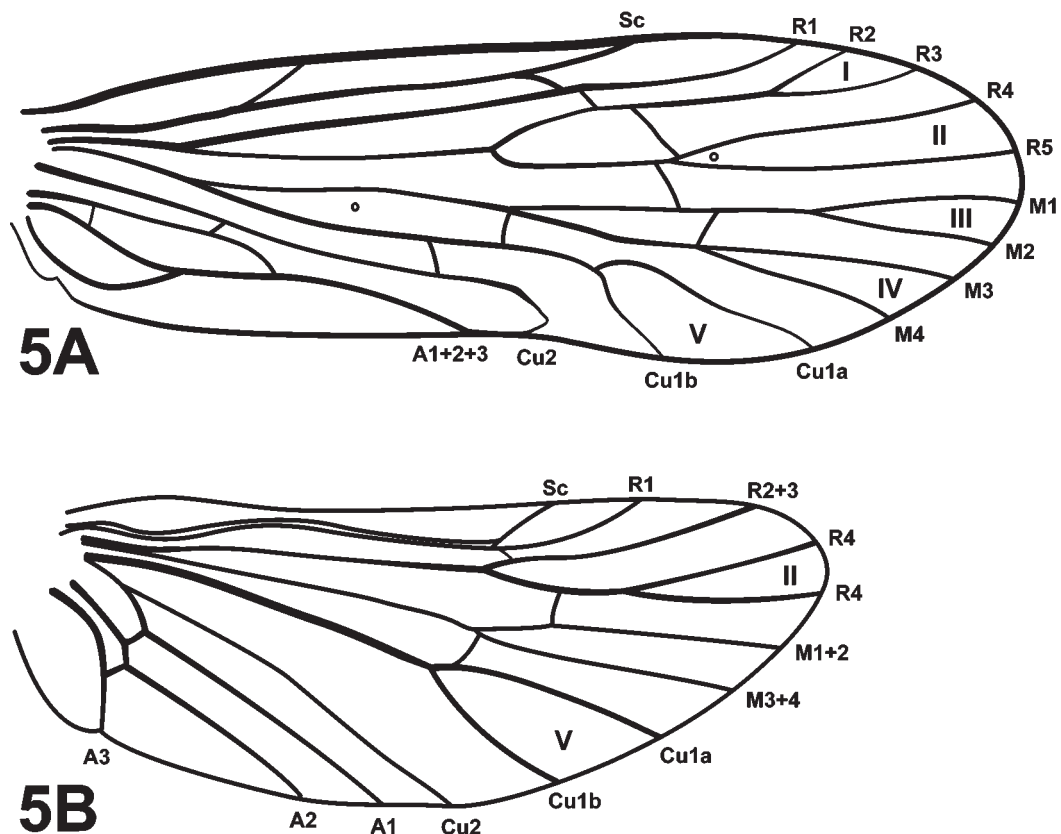


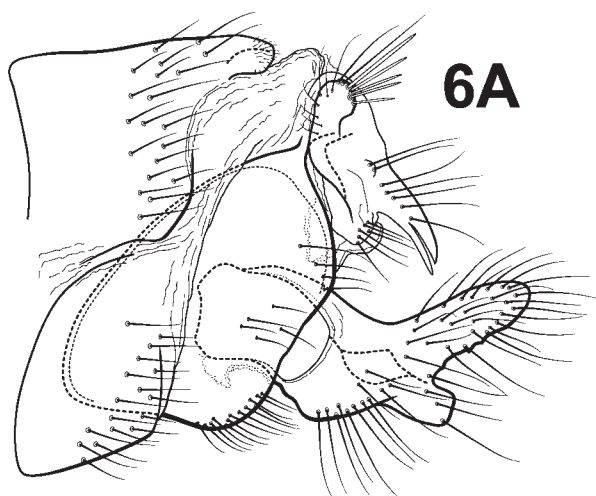
FIGURE 5. *Polycentropus beccus*, new species. Wings: A—forewing; B—hind wing.

Holotype male: VENEZUELA: T. F. Amazonas [=Estado Amazonas]: Puerto Ayacucho (40 km S), El Tobogan, Caño Coromoto, 24 January 1989, malaise, P.J. Spangler, R.A. Faitoute, C.B. Barr (NMNH).

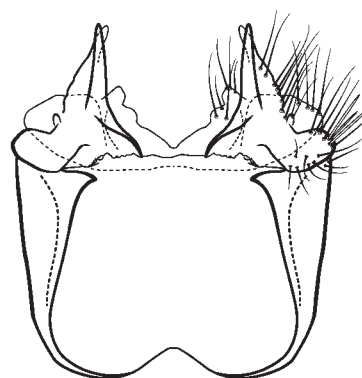
Paratypes: VENEZUELA: T. F. Amazonas [=Estado Amazonas]: Puerto Ayacucho (29 km S), Río Agua Blanca, 17 November 1987, P.J. Spangler, R.A. Faitoute—1 male (NMNH); same data as holotype—1 male (UMSP).

Etymology. From *beccus*, Latin for beak or bill, referring to the bifurcate process of the preanal appendage that resembles a birds beak in lateral aspect.

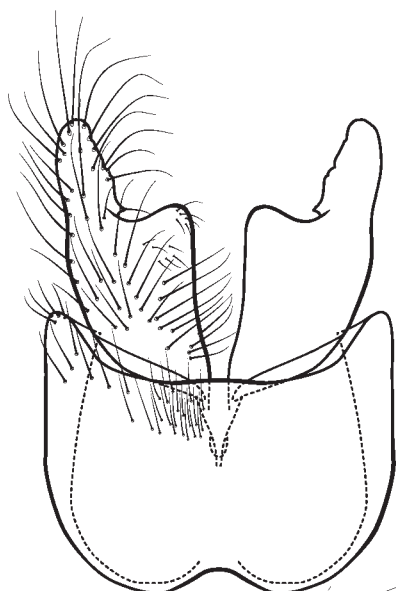
FIGURE 6. *Polycentropus beccus*, new species. Male genitalia: A—lateral; B—dorsal; C—ventral; D—caudal; E—phallus, lateral; F—phallic sclerite, dorsal; G—phallobase, caudal; H—VIIIth tergite, dorsal.



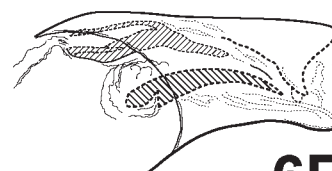
6A



6B



6C



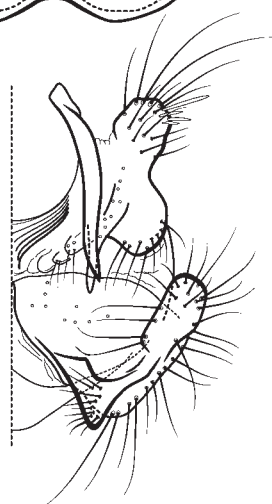
6E



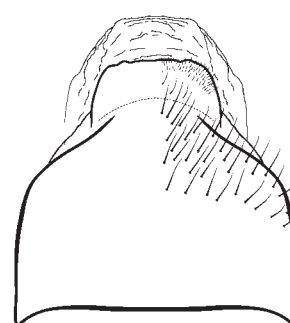
6F



6G



6D



6H

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